

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTAURI HIGH
SCHOOL FALCONS GIRLS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and applaud the Centauri High School Falcons Girls Basketball team for their thrilling victory over the Denver Christian High Crusaders in the Colorado State Championship this past March. This riveting victory marks Centauri High School's second girls state championship, one undoubtedly deserved by this group of hard-working and devoted players.

Displaying their tenacious defense, the Falcons forced 31 turnovers against the Crusaders. Even though they were down by 8 points at the end of the first half, Centauri High proved its maturity and experience, regrouping and coming back in the second half to win the game 62 to 57.

The Falcons are soaring high today not only because they are great individuals, but because they are great athletes who work together. Led by coach Dave Forster, teammates Janette McCarroll, Amanda Gylling, Marcie Cooley, Wynona Miller, Lucia Muniz, Jeree Booth, Krystina George, Raina Gylling, Venessa Jaramillo, Lisa McCarroll, Lindy Norton, Amanda Ruybal, and Lacey Smith all displayed the determination, focus, and teamwork needed to defeat their challenging opponent. The Falcons' victory was based on a combination of accurate shooting, powerful defense, and masterful passing. Throughout the intense second half, the team never lost its focus or concentration, sinking pivotal free throws and continually executing plays with perfection.

The Falcons' ability to work together is a true inspiration to any person who has ever been on a team or worked with others. Once again, congratulations to these amazing student athletes and all of Centauri High School on their great victory!

TRIBUTE TO DR. DON MICHAEL
RANDEL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer recognition to Dr. Don Michael Randel, the outgoing president of the University of Chicago. Dr. Randel has presided over the University of Chicago since 2000, and he has been instrumental in strengthening the humanities and the arts on the campus. Dr. Randel has also been active in overseeing a broad range of interactions with the city of Chicago and further strengthening the University's programs in the physical and biomedical sciences and its relationship with the Argonne National Laboratory. He also led the Chicago Initiative, an ongoing campaign for \$2 billion, the largest in the University's history, which has raised more than \$1.3 billion toward this goal.

Dr. Randel came to Chicago after 32 years at Cornell University, where he served as a faculty member in the department of music and in many administrative posts, including

department chair, vice-provost, and associate dean and then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He became provost of Cornell University in 1995.

Dr. Randel is one of the nation's leading musicologists and served as the editor of the *Journal of the American Musicology Society*. He also is editor of the *Harvard Dictionary of Music* 4th ed., published in 2003, the *Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music*, published in 1996, and the *Harvard Concise Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, published in 1999.

During Dr. Randel's presidency, substantial improvements to the University of Chicago's facilities were completed, including the Paley residence halls, the Ratner Athletic Center, the new Graduate School of Business and the \$200 million Center for Integrative Sciences, the largest building in the University's history. The University also completed several joint programs with the city along the Midway, including opening a highly successful charter school, which has now been joined by another, under the auspices of the University's Center for Urban School Improvement. The University also has launched the Collegiate Scholars Program, a College bridge program aimed at preparing Chicago public school students for elite academic institutions.

Dr. Randel will leave a long-lasting impact on the First Congressional District by encouraging a greater awareness of the value of diversity. Speaking on the importance of combating prejudice, Dr. Randel noted the related virtue of diversity, both of ideas and of experience when he commented, "No part of the University community can think of itself as immune from this concern for diversity. An unprecedented number of programs are in place to increase diversity in the functioning of our academic programs and in the ways in which we carry on our business affairs and our relations with the neighborhood and city of which we are a part. Each of us must believe that embracing—not merely tolerating—diversity is a personal obligation."

Mr. Speaker, the University of Chicago, as well as the city itself, will be losing an exceptional, first-class leader, but we want to wish Dr. Randel well on all of his future endeavors, as well as thank him for his many contributions to the school and to the great city of Chicago.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297,
TAX INCREASE PREVENTION
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the conference report on H.R. 4297, the FY06 tax reconciliation bill.

As I stated in December 2005, when I voted against the House tax reconciliation bill, I do not oppose tax cuts, and in a more stable fiscal climate I would support reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividend income. What I do oppose is borrowing money to pay for tax cuts, particularly for tax cuts that do not expire for another 3 years. According to the Joint

Committee on Taxation, the conference report before us today would cost approximately \$91 billion over the next 10 years, and would raise taxes by approximately \$22 billion over the same period. Considering the state of our current fiscal situation, this conference report would do more harm than good at this time.

In 2001, I was one of only 28 House Democrats to vote for President Bush's 2001 tax cuts that reduced marginal income tax rates. Since 2001, however, our country's fiscal condition has dramatically reversed course. In 2001, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] predicted that the 10-year budget surplus would be \$5.6 trillion. That projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion has deteriorated into a projected \$3.9 trillion deficit during the same period. In FY 2005, the Federal Government ran a budget deficit of \$319 billion, the third largest deficit in our Nation's history.

Further, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our Nation's history. On October 21, 2005, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$8 trillion for the first time in our Nation's history. That is an increase of \$1 trillion in our national debt over the last 2 years. It took our country 193 years, from 1787 to 1980, to accumulate an additional \$1 trillion in debt.

Unfortunately, our national debt is only getting worse. When I voted against the House tax reconciliation bill in December, our national debt was \$8.1 trillion. Today, our national debt is \$8.4 trillion, an increase of \$300 billion in only 5 months. An \$8.4 trillion national debt comes down to approximately \$28,000 per person in our country. That is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report on H.R. 4297 extends several tax cut measures, including reduced rates for capital gains and dividend income and relief from the alternative minimum tax, that I support and would vote for in a balanced, revenue neutral measure. I would also support several provisions, including the above-the-line deduction for higher education and classroom expenses and the research and development credit, that were included in the House tax reconciliation bill and are not included in this conference report. I hope that extensions of these provisions in the tax code will be included in a future tax measure this year.

Further, while the conference report includes multiyear extensions of lowered capital gains and dividend tax rates, it includes only a one-year extension of relief from the alternative minimum tax [AMT]. I strongly support AMT relief, and voted for H.R. 4096, the Stealth Tax Relief Act, on December 7, 2005, which extended AMT relief and indexed it for inflation. The AMT is the most significant looming tax concern for middle-class American families; if AMT relief is allowed to lapse, the number of taxpayers subject to the AMT will increase from 3 million in 2004 to 21 million this year. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending AMT relief and indexing it for inflation would reduce Federal revenue by \$191 billion over the next 5 years. This is an immediate problem that Congress and the administration need to work together to fix in a responsible, bipartisan, and long-term manner, before millions of Americans are hit with large, unexpected tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues in both parties to advance commonsense, bipartisan approaches to solving